

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060871

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QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: TARAPUR NUCLEAR FUEL EXPORT LICENSE

REF: STATE 57036

1. DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS, WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TO PREVENT FURTHER INTERVENTION IN AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ON TARAPUR FUEL EXPORT LICENSE XSMN-805 IS BEING BASED PRINCIPALLY ON ARGUMENT OF TIMELINESS WITH WHICH PETITIONERS ACTED AND CONSEQUENTIAL IMPACT ON US RELATIONS WITH INDIA OF FURTHER DELAY.

2. IN ORDER BEST SUPPORT THIS POSITION AT HEARING SCHEDULED MARCH 17, NEED FOLLOWING INFORMATION SOONEST. WHAT WOULD BE IMPACT ON TARAPUR OPERATION OF DELAYS IN ISSUANCE OF XSNM-805 BEYOND MARCH 17 OF: (A) TWO WEEKS, (B) ONE MONTH (C) THREE MONTHS, AND (D) SIX MONTHS? WOULD IMPACT RESULT IN POWER LEVEL CUT- BACK (IF SO, APPROXIMATELY BY WHAT PER-
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PAGE 02 STATE 060871

CENT). COMPLETE REACTOR SHUT-DOWN OR BOTH SEQUENTIALLY?

3. GIVEN IMPORTANCE INDICATED BY INDIA IN HAVING THIS MATERIAL IN BOMBAY BY END OF MARCH, WHAT PLANS ARE THERE FOR SHIPMENT BY AIR, RATHER THAN BY SEA? WE HAVE ESTIMATES THAT INDICATE ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR DELIVERY USING AIR AS COMPARED WITH UP TO THREE MONTHS FOR SEA, AT ADDED COST OF ABOUT DOLS 27,000. THIS SEEMS RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT IN COMPARISON TO COST OF TARAPUR POWER REDUCTIONS OR COMPLETE SHUTDOWN. IN MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO DEPARTMENT BY INDIAN EMBASSY, A POSSIBLE PROBLEM WITH OBTAINING CLEARANCES FOR OVERFLIGHTS WAS MENTIONED. EDLOW INDICATES TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO SUCH CLEARANCES NEEDED. AUTHORITIES AT AIRPORTS WERE FLIGHT LANDS NEED TO BE NOTIFIED FOR SAFETY REASONS, BUT THIS IS HANDLED BY AIR CARRIER.

4. SINCE PREPARING THIS TELEX, BOMBAY 636 RECEIVED. ALTHOUGH REFTTEL MOST HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING VARIOUS FACTORS INVOLVED, IT IS TOO COMPLEX FOR USE IN HEARINGS. RATHER THAN TRYING TO INTERPRET DATA HERE, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IAEC COULD PUT IT IN FORM ALONG LINES SUGGESTED PARA 2, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE BASIS FOR SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT'S POSITION.

5. IN AMPLIFICATION PARA 1, DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH IS TO REQUEST IN WRITTEN MATERIAL FURNISHED NRC TODAY SEPARATE SCHEDULING FOR XSNM-805 AND XSNM-845. COMMISSION IS BEING REQUESTED TO REJECT INTERVENTION IN CASE OF XSNM-805 ON GROUNDS PETITIONERS' FAILURE TO MEET REASONABLE STANDARDS OF TIMELINESS AND RESULTANT FOREIGN POLICY CONSEQUENCES. WITH THIS APPROACH, INTERVENORS EXPECTED TO QUESTION CLOSELY REAL NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF XSNM-805. ALSO ANTICIPATE QUESTION THAT IF SITUATION REALLY AS SEEIOUS AS STATED, WHY INDIANS WILLING ACCEPT ADDITIONAL DELAYS INHERENT IN SEA SHIPMENT, HENCE, ISSUES RAISED PARA 3. WITH REGARD XSNM-845, COMMISSION BEING REQUESTED DEFER SUBMISSION WRITTEN MATERIAL COVERING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES UNTIL MARCH 19, WITH HEARINGS ON MARCH 24. KISSINGER

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PAGE 03 STATE 060871

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